

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising[[:]]

at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and [(IB)] (IB-3), the total content being from 10 to [[70]] 40% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the content of the compound represented by the general formula (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 10 to 40% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 45 to 70% by mass,

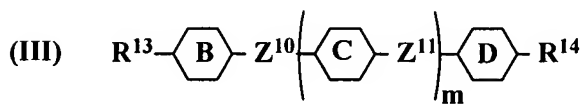
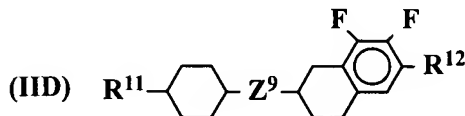
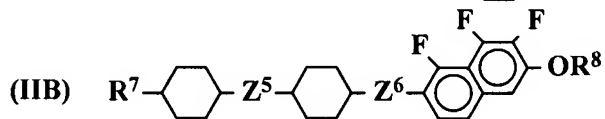
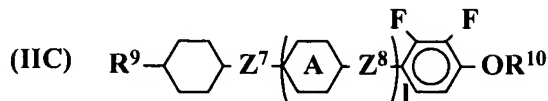
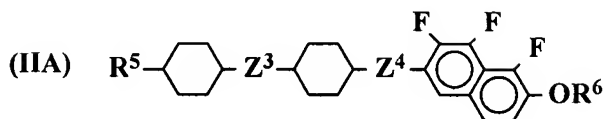
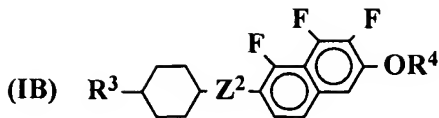
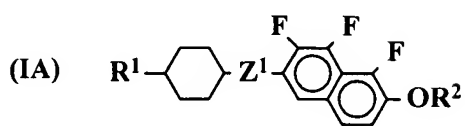
the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and

a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass,

wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3,

a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and

a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:



wherein R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^7 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$ $[[,]]$ or $-\text{COO}-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

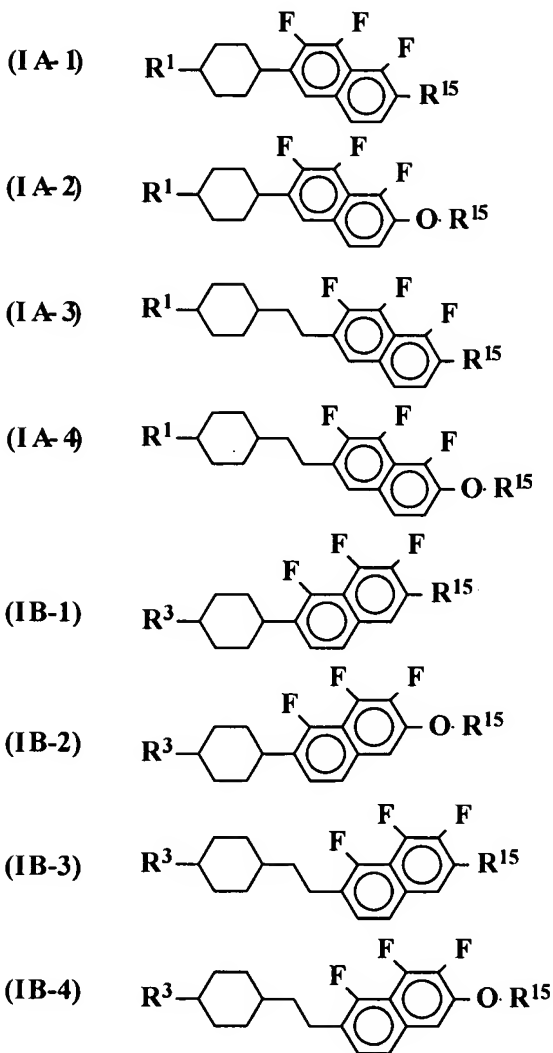
R^2 , R^4 , R^6 , R^8 and R^{10} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$ or $-\text{COO}-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2-$, $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, or $-\text{OCO}-$;

Z^7 and Z^8 each independently represents a single bond, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, or $-\text{OCH}_2-$; l and m represents 0 or 1;

A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and

B, C and D each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group,
and

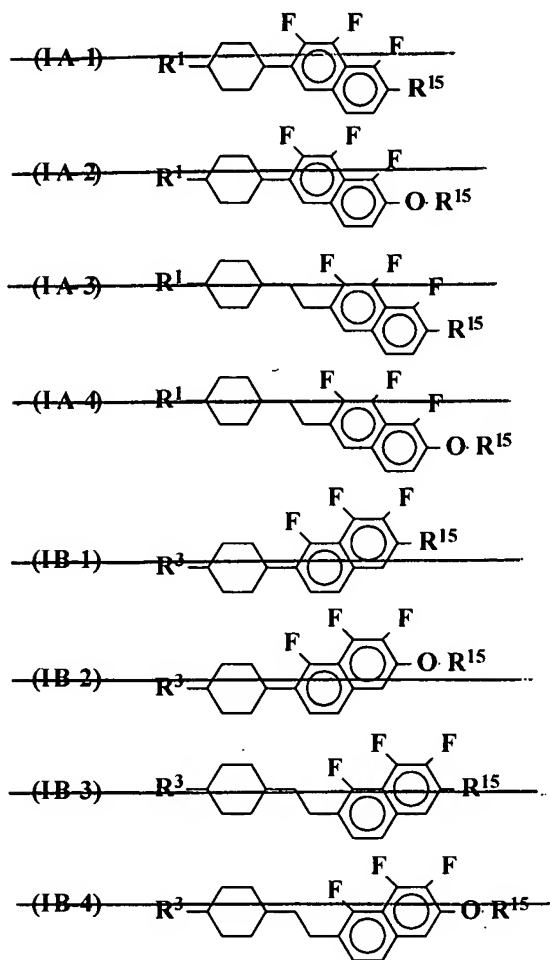


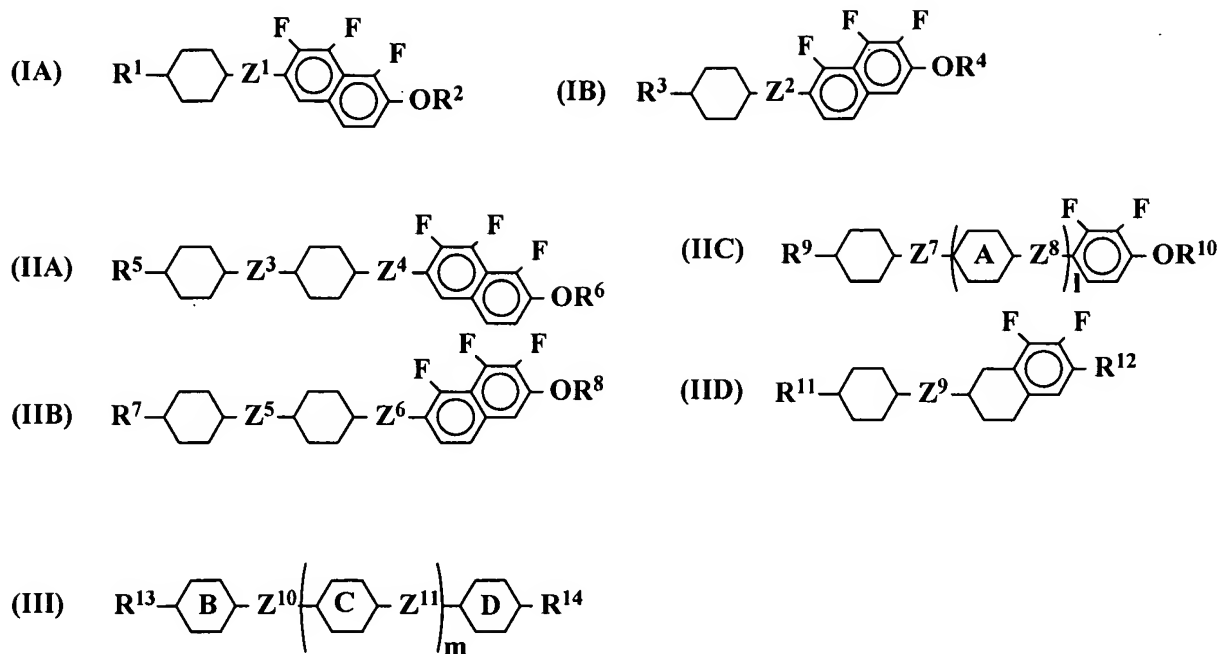
wherein R¹ and R³ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the comprising at least one compound selected from the group of compounds

represented by the general formula formulas (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-1) to (IA-4), and

the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-1) to (IB-4); (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 25 to 60% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 35 to 65% by mass, the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 35 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:





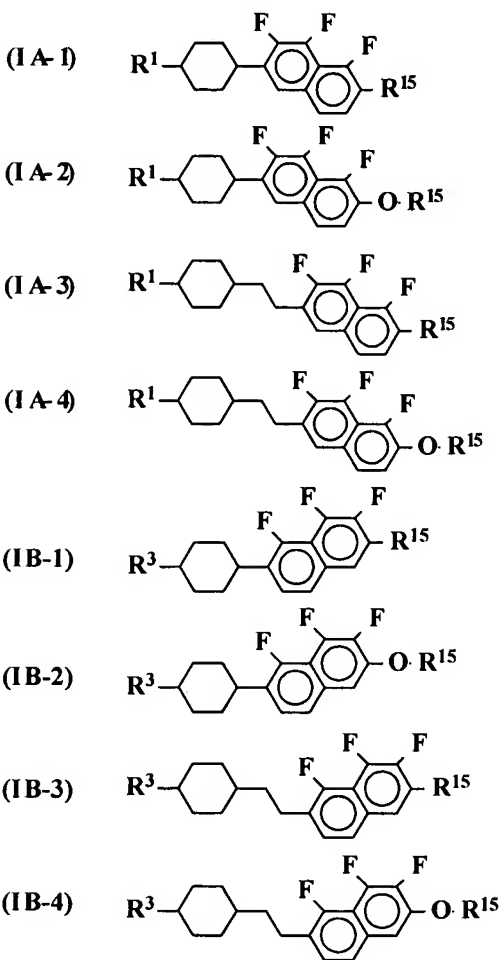
wherein R¹ [[and]], R³, R⁵, R⁷, R⁹, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³ and R¹⁴ each independently ~~represent~~ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly[[, and]];

[[R¹⁵]] R², R⁴, R⁶, R⁸ and R¹⁰ each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

Z¹ to Z⁶ and Z⁹ to Z¹¹ each independently represents a single bond, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂O-, -OCH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CHCH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -CH₂O-, -OCH₂-, -CF₂O-, -COO-, or -OCO-; Z⁷ and Z⁸ each independently represents a single bond, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂O-, -OCH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CHCH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -CH₂O-, or -OCH₂-; l and m represent 0 or 1; A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and B, C and D each

independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group,

and

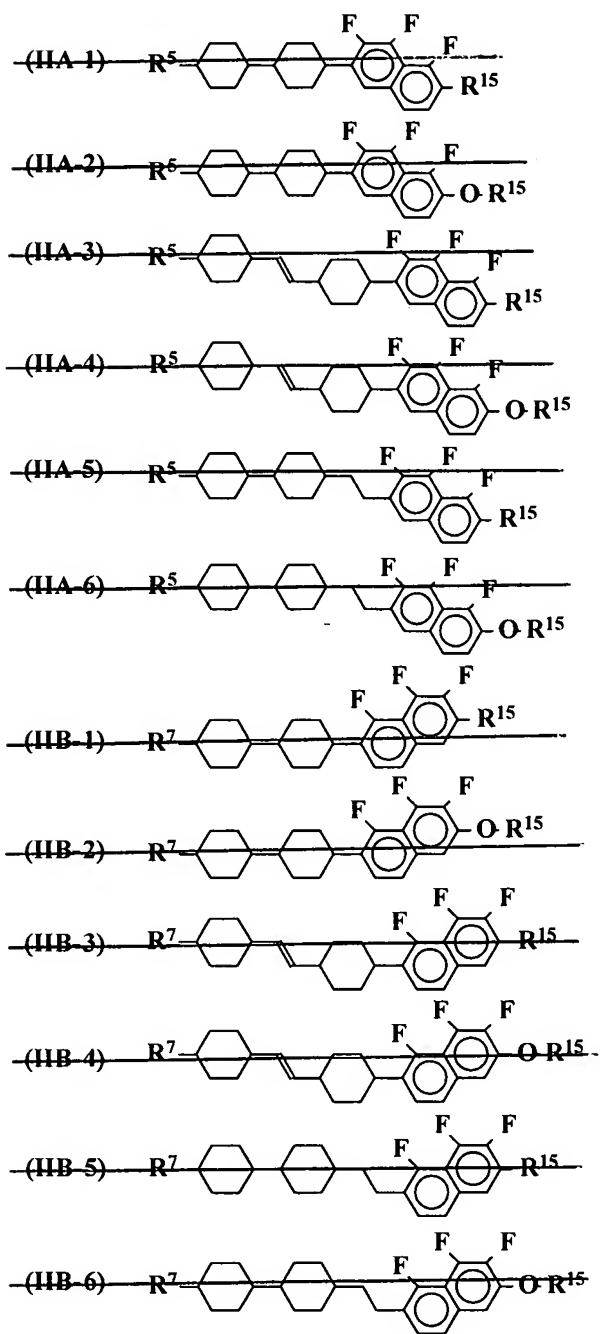


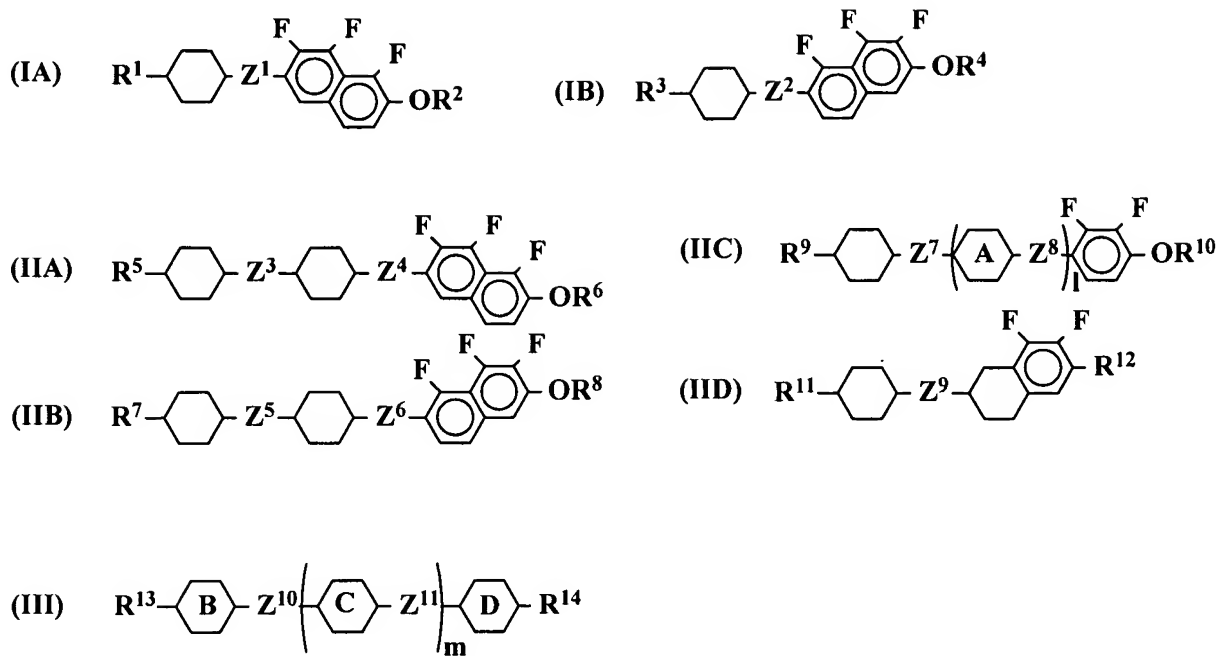
wherein R¹ and R³ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the comprising at least one compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-1) to (IIA-6), and

the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-1) to (IIB-6); selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 20 to 70% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 20 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 30 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 70 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less;





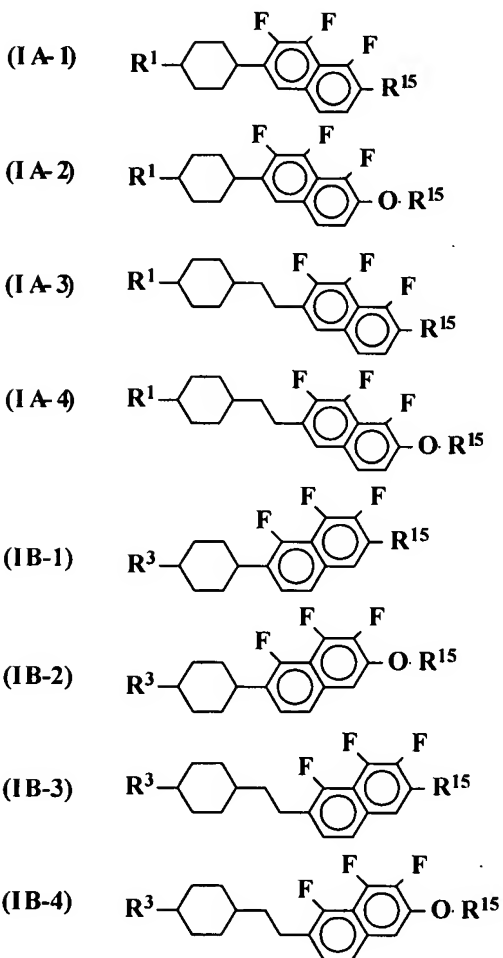
wherein $R^1, R^3, R^5, R^7, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}$ and R^{14} each independently ~~represent~~ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly[[,]];

R^2, R^4, R^6, R^8 and R^{10} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-CF_2O-$, $-COO-$, or $-OCO-$; Z^7 and Z^8 each independently represents a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2O-$, or $-OCH_2-$; l and m represent 0 or 1; A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and B, C and D each

independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group,

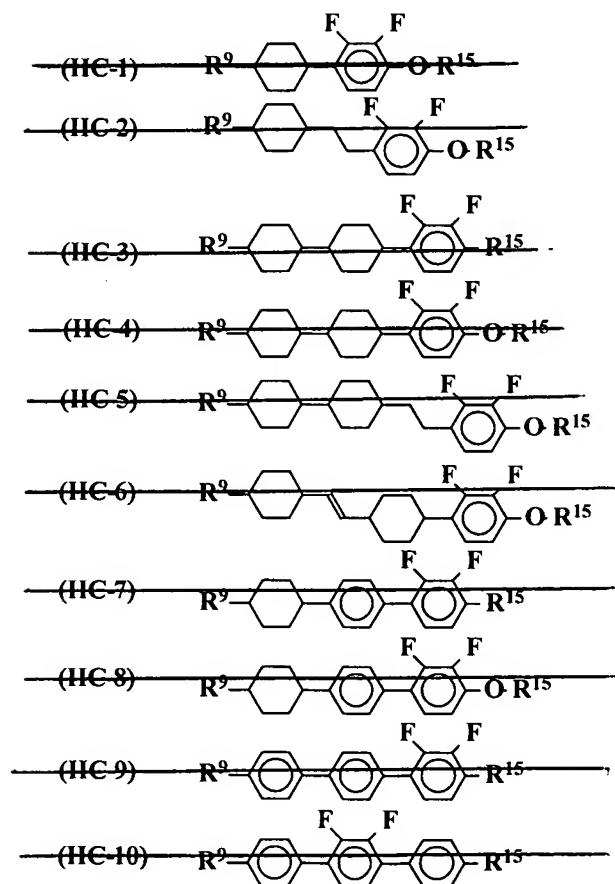
and

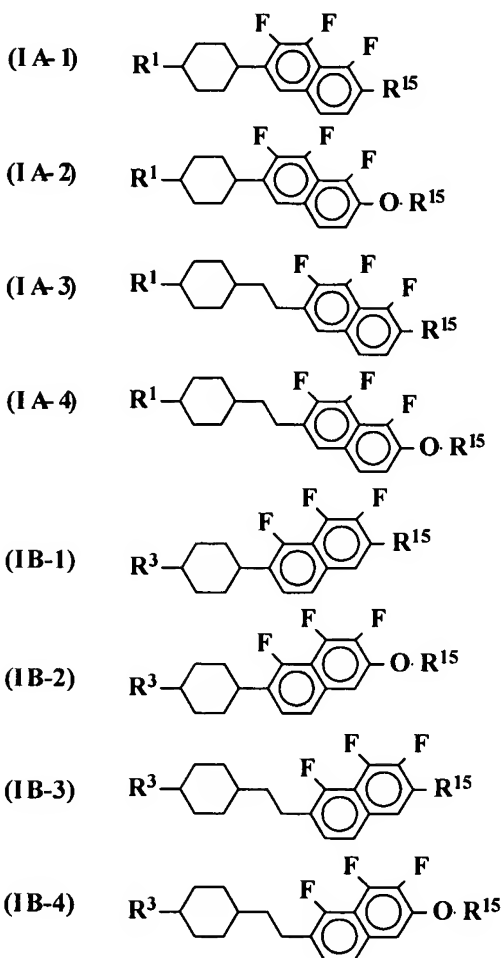


wherein R¹ and R³ each substituent preferably represent an alkyl group having 1 to [[5]]10 carbon atoms [[or]], an [[alkenyl]] alkoxy group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and said alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula $[(IIC)]$ (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (HC-1) to (HC-10) (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

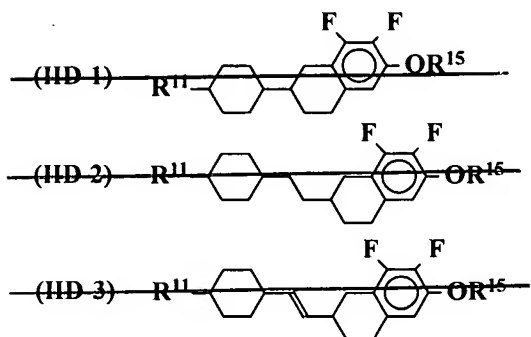


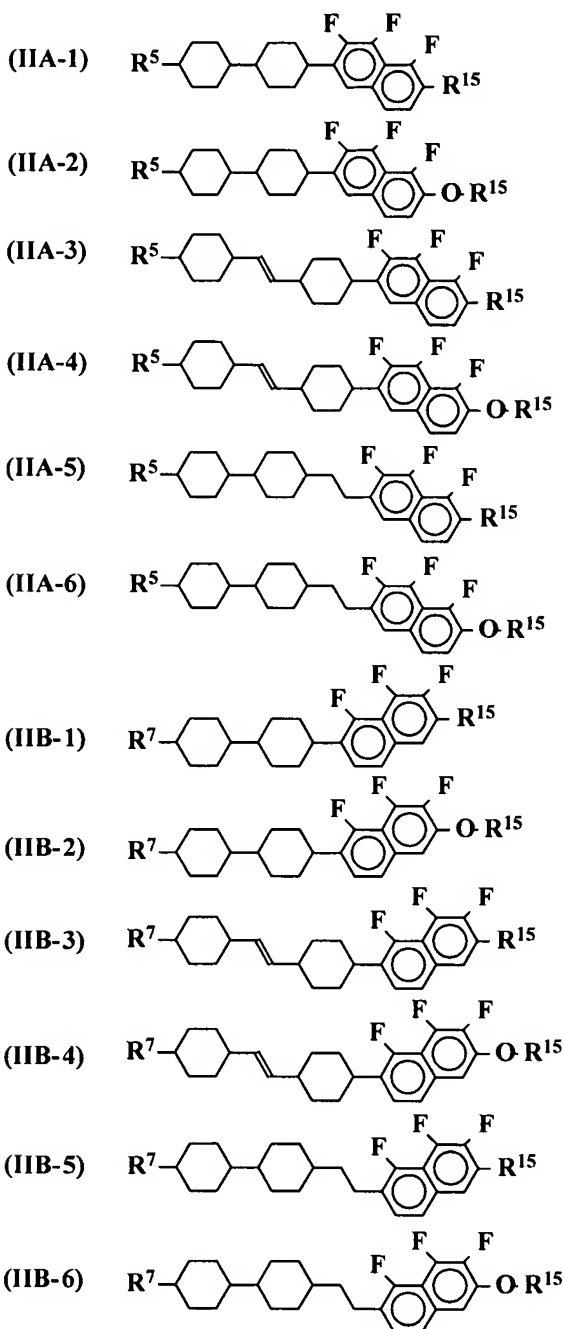


wherein R^9 represents R^1 and R^3 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) ~~comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3)~~ (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general

formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):



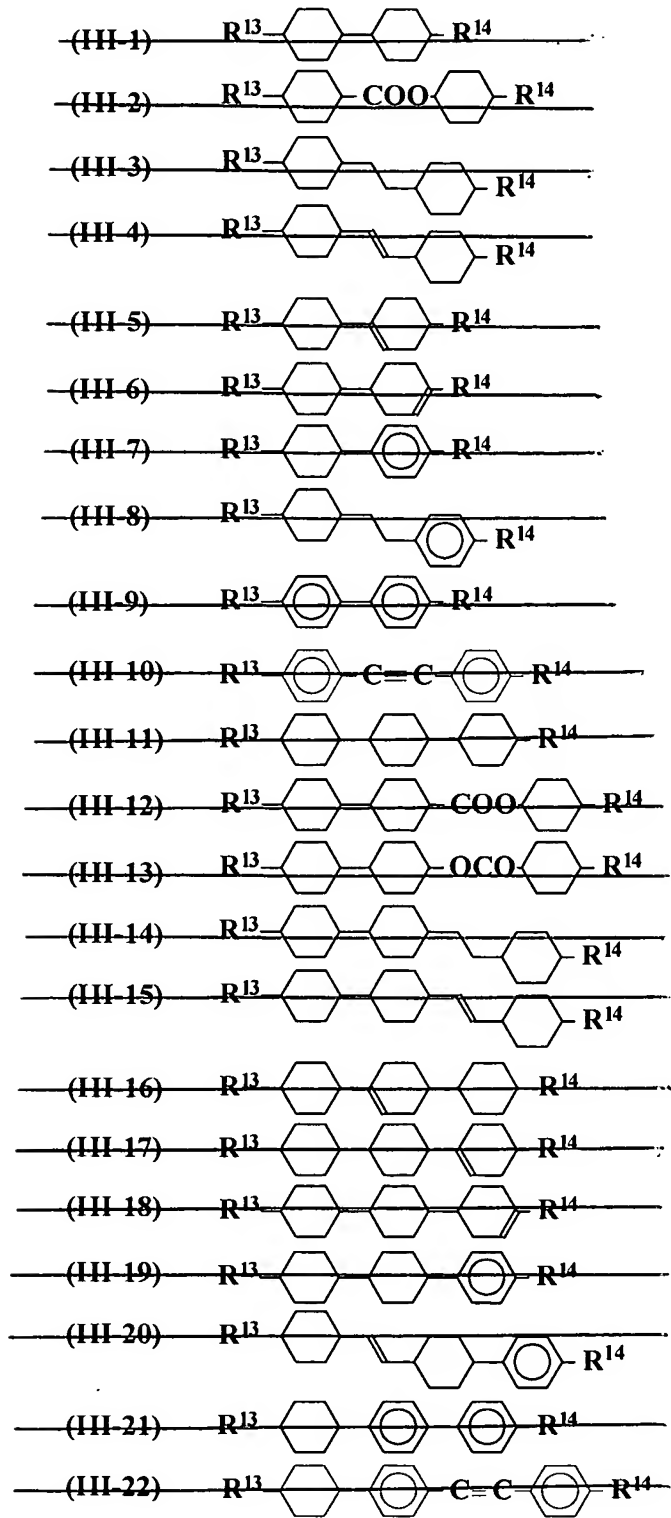


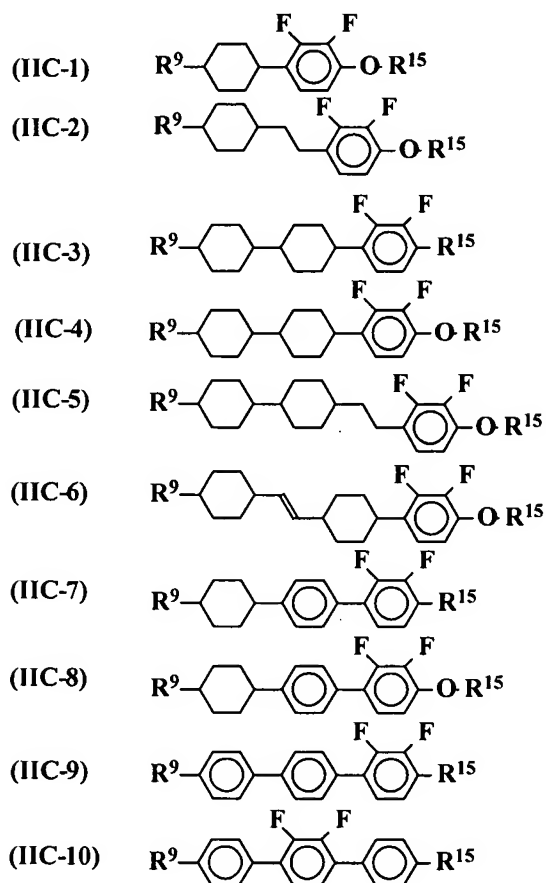
wherein R^{14} represents R^5 and R^7 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, [[the]] and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or

an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and ~~[[said]]~~ the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, ~~[[a]]~~ 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula ~~[[(III)]]~~ (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas ~~(III-1) to (III-22)~~ (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):





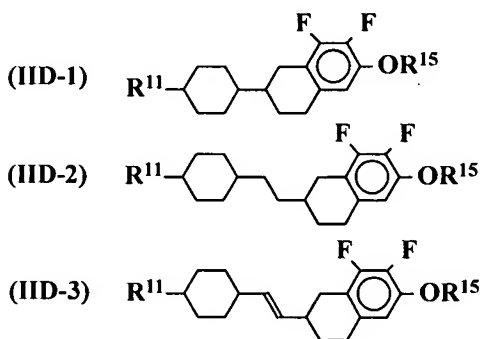
wherein ~~R¹³ and R¹⁴ represent~~ R⁹ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are ~~present~~ represent in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-, or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, ~~each substitute independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and said alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group and R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.~~

Claim 7 (previously amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 to 6 wherein ~~the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA) and (IB) is from 10 to 40% by mass,~~

~~the content of the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) is from 10 to 40% by mass,~~

~~the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IB) and (IIC) is from 45 to 70% by mass, and~~

~~the content of the compound represented by the general formula (III) is from 30 to 55% by mass~~ claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

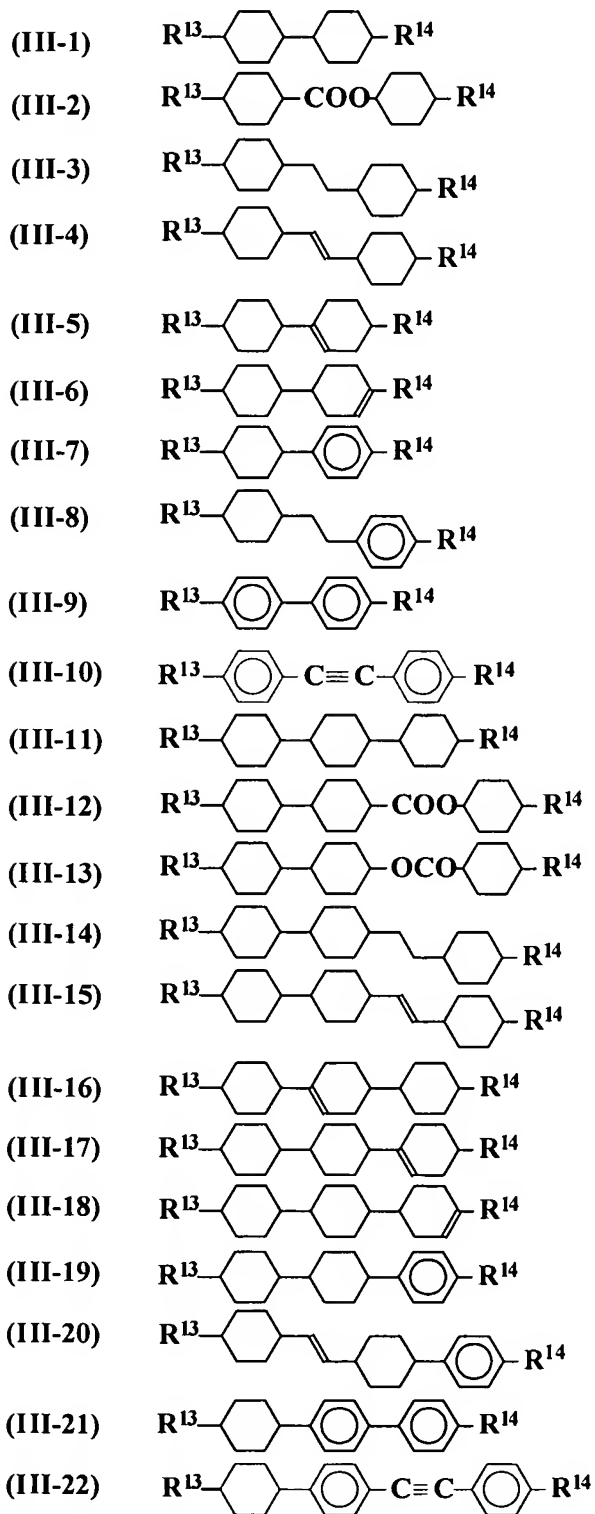


wherein R¹¹ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 to 6 claim 1, wherein the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA) and (IB) is from 25 to 60% by mass,

~~the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IB), (IIA) and (IIB) is from 35 to 65% by mass, and~~

~~the content of the compound represented by the general formula (III) is from 35 to 65%~~
by mass compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented
by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):



wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.

Claim 9: (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -6 to -3,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and

the viscosity is 30 mPa·s or less.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -6 to -3,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and

the viscosity is 30 mPa·s or less.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -6,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

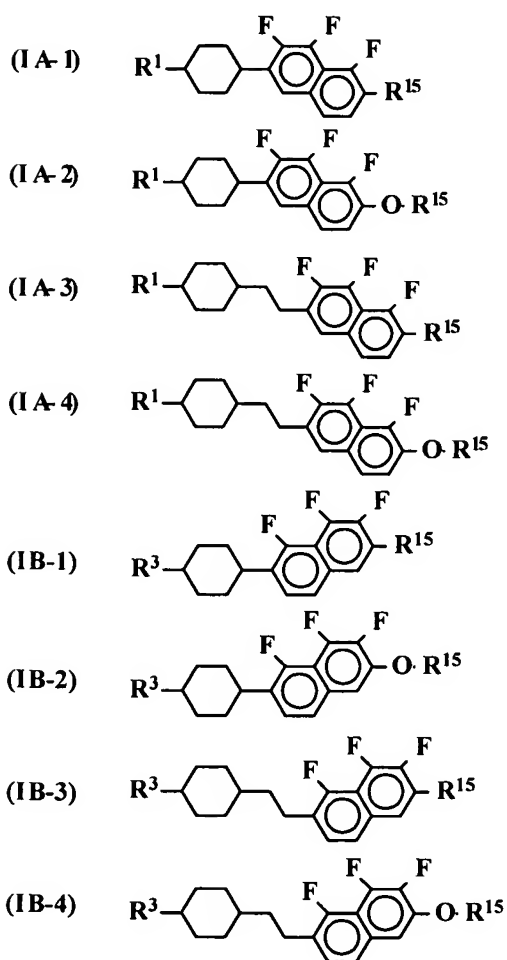
the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and

the viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less.

Claim 13 (Original): A liquid crystal display device for active matrix display, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

Claim 14 (Original): A liquid crystal display device for VA mode, IPS mode or ECB mode, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

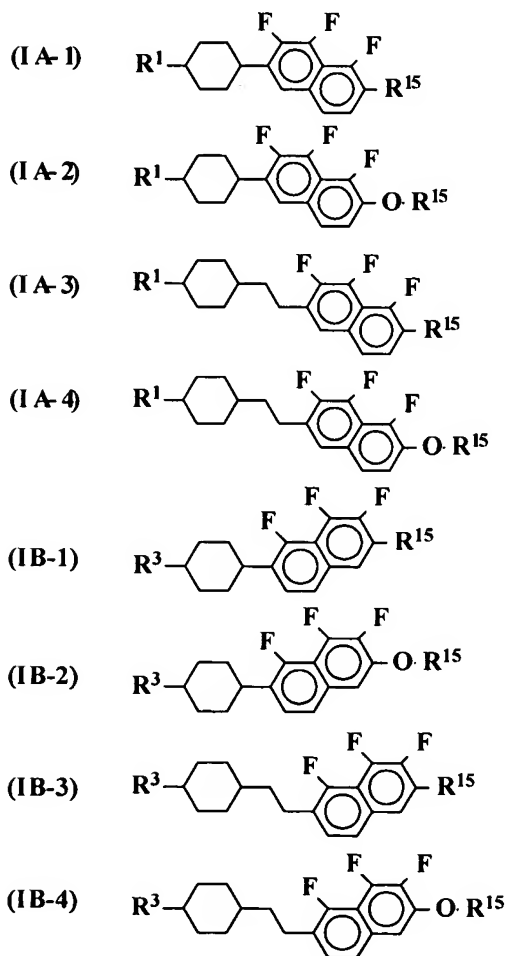
Claim 15 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):



wherein R^1 and R^3 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

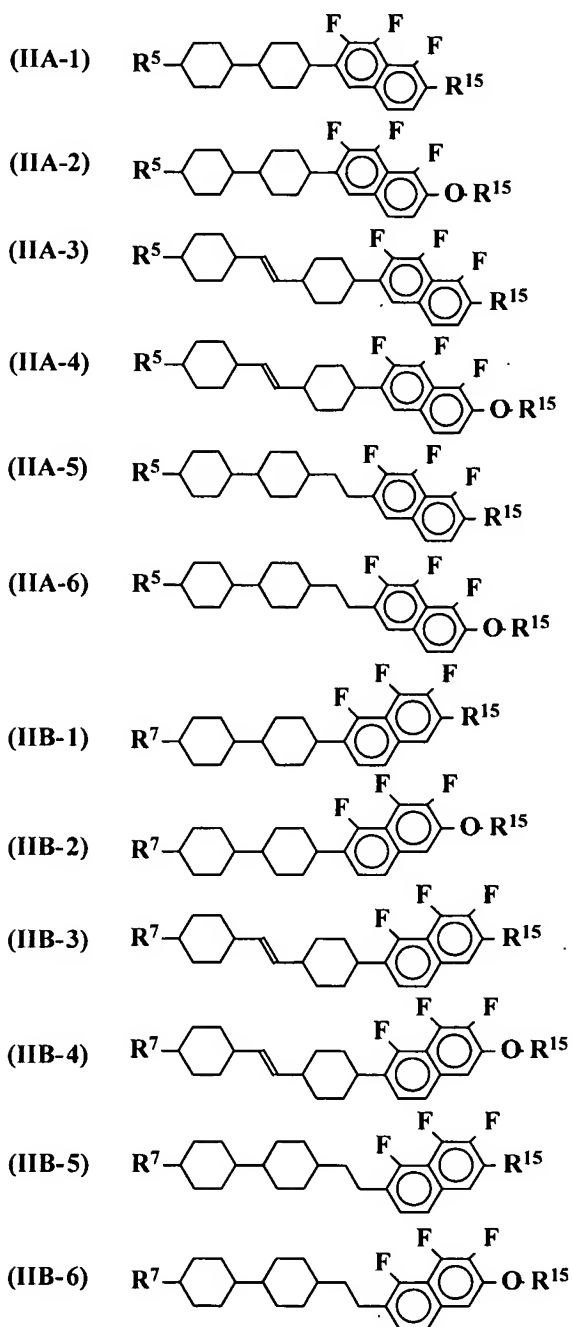
Claim 16 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):



wherein R¹ and R³ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

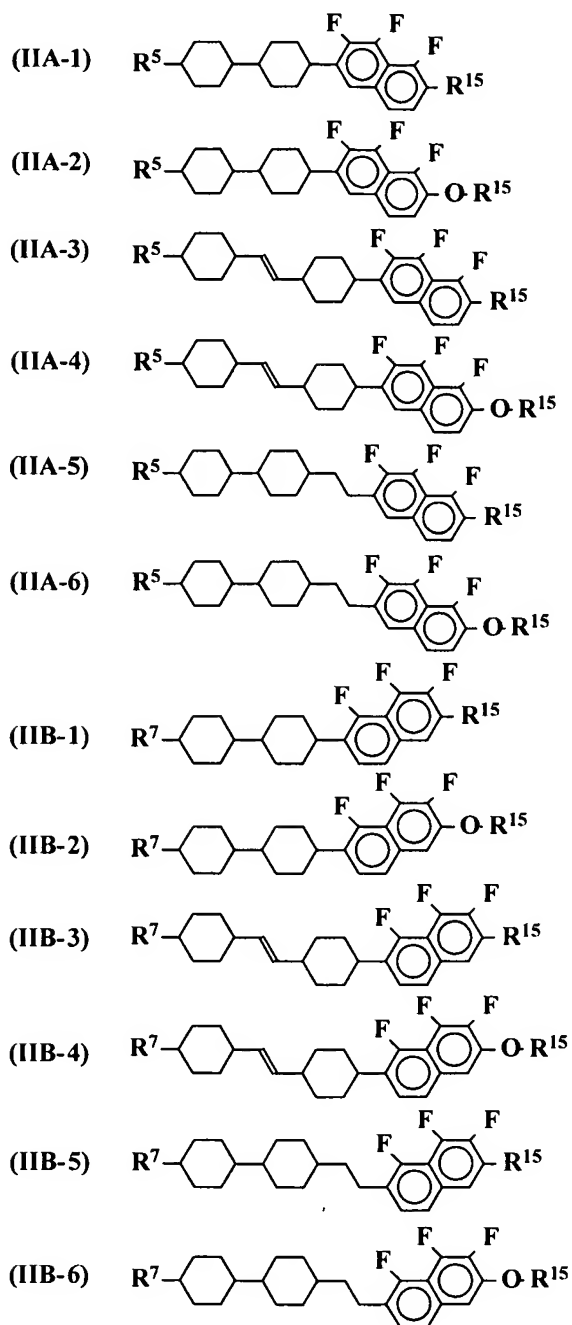


wherein R^5 and R^7 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to

5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 18 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

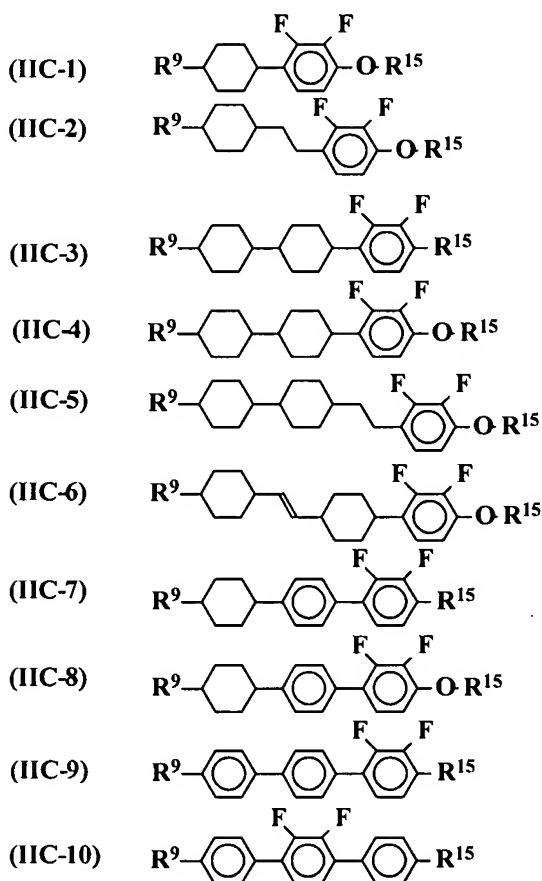


wherein R^5 and R^7 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to

5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

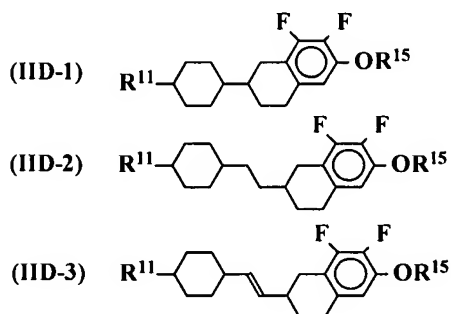
R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):



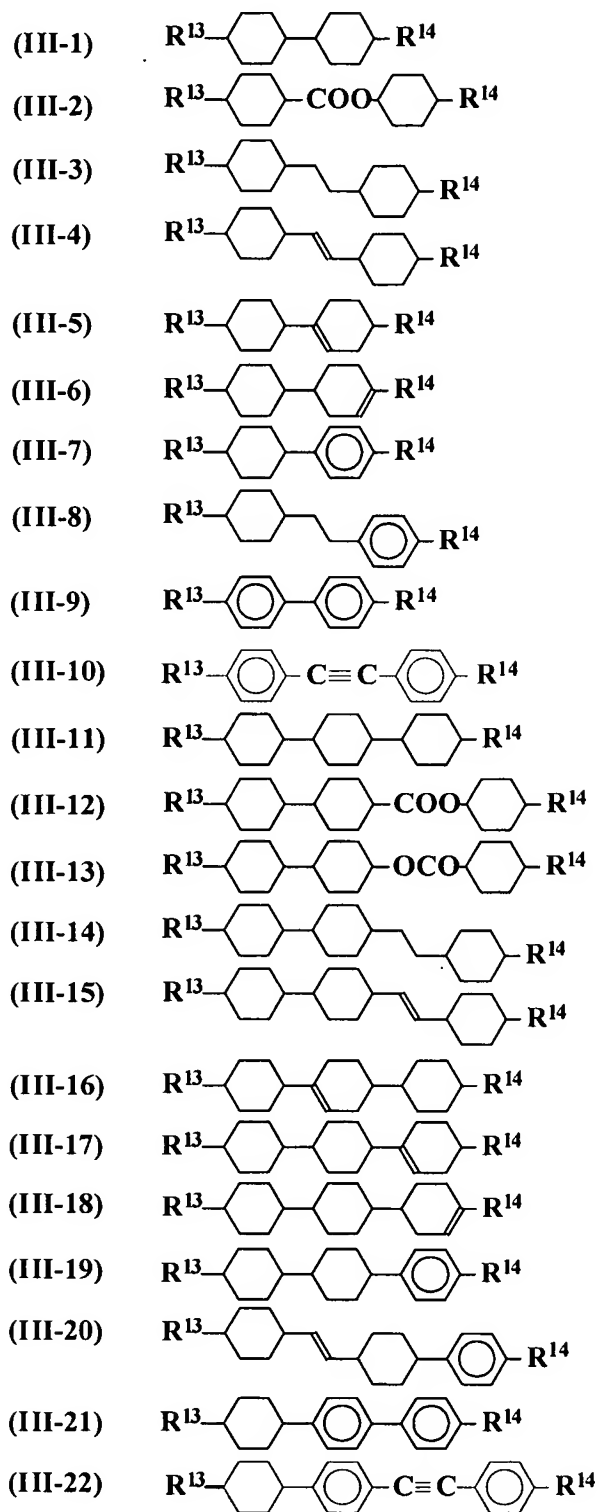
wherein R^9 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$, or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 20 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):



wherein R^{11} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 21 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):



wherein R^{13} and R^{14} represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.